

Islamic Studies

Grade 11

Given the dire need for Islamic studies material in schools incorporating the subject in English, Darussalam has endeavoured to publish an Islamic Studies series covering all the grades, from grade one through grade twelve.

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Revised and Edited

by **Larbi Benrezzok**



DARUSSALAM

GLOBAL LEADER IN ISLAMIC BOOKS

The series aims to acquaint the student with the teachings of Islam in every aspect: beliefs, practices and moral conduct. The series, with its unique features, certainly fills a gap in this area which has long been partially neglected.

The present breathtaking work was initiated by an expert in the field of education, Maulvi Abdul Aziz, MA. English literature, who has held different posts in the field including that of Senior Administrative Officer in the Department of Private Education, Ministry of Education, Dubai, UAE, from 1982 to 2002.

The current project also owes its existence in its present form to some people who made informative suggestions, particularly Larbi Benrezzouk, College of Languages and Translation, Imam Muhammad ibn Saud University, Riyadh, who undertook the painstaking task of checking the authenticity of the material presented in the series, proofreading the text as well as adding references to certain quotations from the Qur'an and the hadeeth. Special thanks also go to Mr. Sajid Chaudhary for proofreading in this addition and to Mr. Zulfiqar Mahmood who conscientiously applied his expertise in the field of graphic design to produce the series in a superb shape.

We pray to Almighty Allah to reward our endeavours and to make the present series abundantly beneficial to students in all stages of education as well as to any one who reads them.

Abdul Malik Mujahid
Muharram, 1432 AH.
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What is the Qur'an?

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What is the Qur'an?



1.1. Definition of the Qur'an

The Qur'an is the Arabic Speech of Allah which He revealed to Prophet Muhammad ﷺ (47:2) through Angel Jibreel ﷺ in its precise meaning and exact wording. It is the literal, uncreated Word of Allah. The word 'Qur'an' is frequently mentioned in the Glorious Book itself (See for instance 2:185, 10:37, 10:61 and 17:106).

The Qur'an clearly states to whom, when, in what language, how and why it was revealed: It was revealed in the month of *Ramadaan* (2:185) on the Night of Power or Decree '*Laylat-ul-Qadr*' (97:1): '**We revealed it on a blessed Night.**' (44:3)

It was revealed in the Arabic language: '**Surely, We have made it in the Arabic language so that you may be able to understand it.**' (43:3).

It was revealed in portions, each of which was written and committed to memory as soon as it was revealed, and its revelation was spread over twenty-three years of the Prophet's life, during which time he was occupied solely with the spread of its message:

"It is a Qur'an which We have divided [into parts from time to time] so that you may recite it to the people at intervals; and We have revealed it by stages." (17:106)

1.2. The Qur'an is the Highest Form of Revelation

Although the Gracious Qur'an was revealed piecemeal, the entire revelation is one whole. It is the Word of Allah revealed through the Holy Spirit, that is, Angel Jibreel ﷺ. Revelation takes place in three forms: '**It is not fitting for any human being that Allah should speak to him except by revelation, from behind a veil or by sending a messenger that reveals – by His permission – whatever Allah wills.**' (42:51)

The first of these modes is called *wahy*, which is used here in its literal sense of *al-ishaarah as-saree'ah*, that is to say, a quick suggestion into the mind of man.

The Qur'an is unique. It is inimitable and is protected by Allah from all forms of corruption. The word Qur'an is a verbal noun which means 'the reading' or 'recitation'.

1.3. The Qur'an is Protected by Allah from Corruption

Previous revelations had been corrupted intentionally, but the Qur'an's final message to man is exactly the same in its present form as it was revealed to Prophet Muhammad ﷺ more than 1400 years ago.

Islam teaches us that Allah created the entire universe, the angels, the *jinn* and then mankind in the persons of Adam and his wife. The history of humanity began with the disobedience of the first couple and their expulsion from Paradise, but Allah did not abandon them; rather, He promised to guide them by sending them prophets.

Adam ﷺ was the first Prophet. Some of the prophets brought people Sacred Books from Allah: the best known were the Torah (*at-Tawraat*), which was given to Prophet Moosaa ﷺ; the Psalms (*az-Zaboor*), which was given to Prophet Daawood ﷺ; and the Gospel (*al-Injeel*) which was given to Prophet 'Eesaa ﷺ. Many additions and deletions had crept into these books, but the Qur'an has remained

intact because Allah the Almighty has taken it upon Himself to protect it, as the Qur'an says, '**We have sent down the Reminder, and We will guard it [from corruption].**' (*Soorat al-Hijr*, 15:9)

Harun Yahya writes,

The Divine Scriptures that were revealed before Islam lost their original forms over time; they are either incomplete or not fully accurate. In the case of the Qur'an, however, Allah placed the revelations into our Prophet's memory.

In addition, after he received each revelation, the Prophet ﷺ told his numerous companions to write them down, thereby ensuring the Qur'an's preservation in its original textual form. Caliph Abu Bakr (632-634) had the Qur'an compiled into a single copy, and Caliph 'Uthmaan (644-656) had copies of it sent to important Islamic cities. The following verses explain how our Prophet ﷺ tried to remember the revelations, and how Allah helped him do so:



Do not move your tongue trying to hasten it. Its collection and recitation are Our affair. So when We recite it, follow its recitation. Then its explanation is Our concern. (*Soorat al-Qiyaamah*, 75:16-19)

As the verses maintain, our Prophet ﷺ remembered the Qur'an in a unique way, for Allah implanted its verses in his mind. As his Companions wrote it all down while he was still alive, in compliance with His promise, each of its letters has remained unaltered since the beginning of its revelation over 1,400 years ago. Therefore, Allah's revelation has survived intact to our day.

The Qur'an's lack of any internal contradiction and discrepancy also shows that it is from Allah and is immune to change. The Qur'an is internally consistent and in full agreement with historical developments and scientific discoveries. This attribute is so certain and explicit that our Lord stated:

Will they not ponder the Qur'an? If it had been from other than Allah, they would have found many inconsistencies in it. (*Soorat an-Nisaa'*, 4: 82)[†]

[†] Harun Yahya, *Allah Promised to Protect the Qur'an*, available at: http://www.nnseek.com/e/aus.religion.islam/allah_promised_to_protect_the_qur_an_24845933t.html

All the teachings contained in the former scriptures that were meant to be of lasting value and importance are included in the Qur'an. The Qur'an gives some specific accounts of what the pre-Qur'anic scriptures contained. The basic message of all the prophets of Allah, and hence all scriptures they brought, was one and the same message from Allah to people:

Indeed, We have sent forth among every community a messenger with the commandment "Worship Allah Alone and shun all false deities and objects of worship!" (16:36)

Thus, the Qur'an not only preserves the essential teachings of the previous revelations but also sets out once and for all the eternal truth in its entirety. Indeed, it is a book that contains the essence of the revelations made to the prophets, preserving them so perfectly

that the reader has no need to have recourse to other sacred scriptures, which have undergone all forms of corruption.

All the essential points, in every respect, are given to us in the Qur'an. The Muslims, therefore, regard the Qur'an as the Most Sacred object on earth – Allah's Supreme Gift to mankind. It is an object of veneration and the foundation of human understanding of the universe and man's place in it:

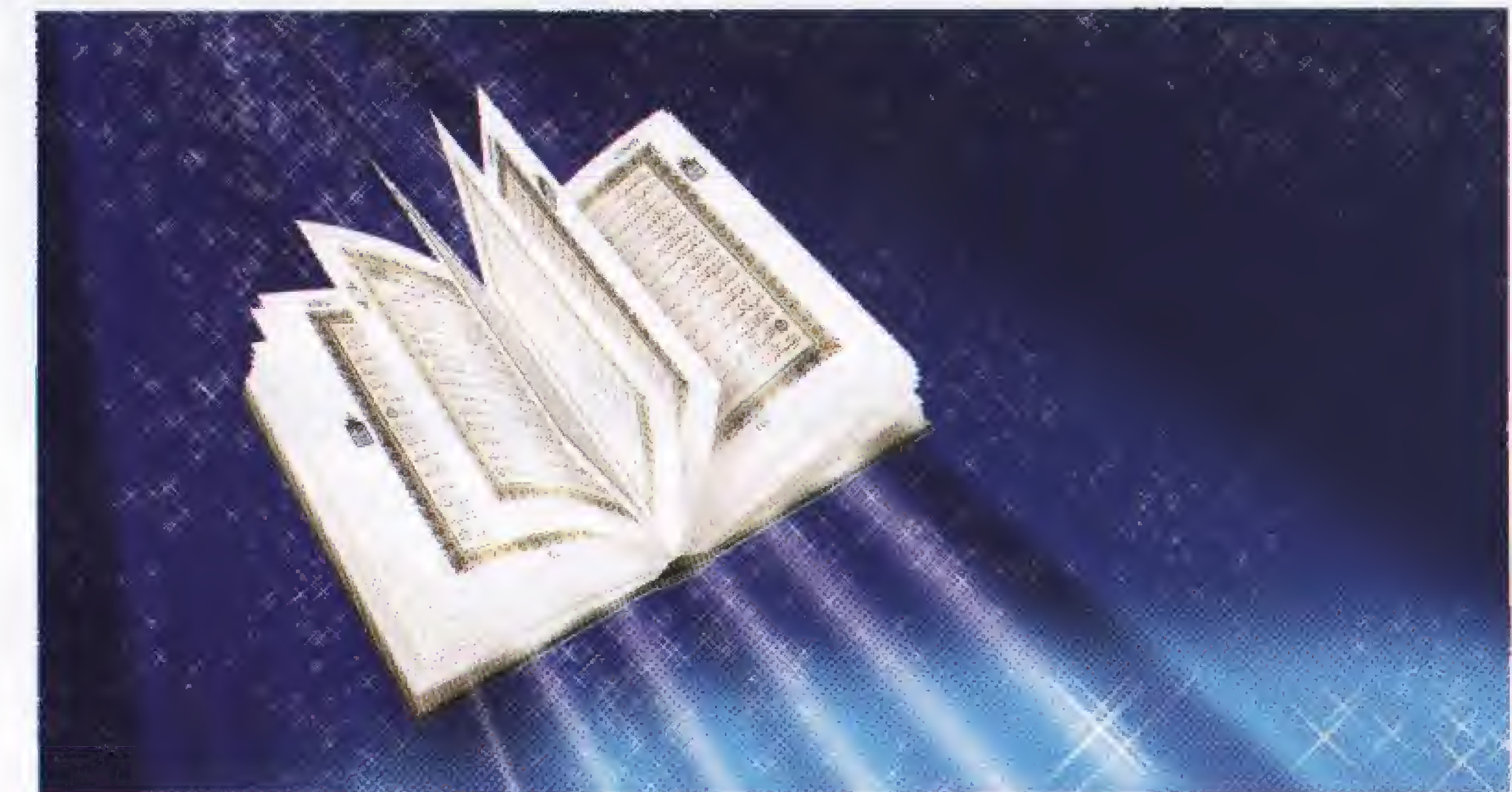
If all men and jinn were to collaborate, they could not produce its like. (17:88)

The Prophet ﷺ was authorized to challenge his critics and opponents to produce something comparable (10:38). The challenge was taken up by more than one stylist in Arabic literature – with a predictable result. The style of the Qur'an is Allah's style – this is basically what forms the miraculous character of the Qur'an.

1.4. The Names of the Qur'an

Almighty Allah refers to the Qur'an by a number of names. These include "the Qur'an" (17:88), the Book "*al-Kitaab*" (2:2), the Criterion "*al-Furqaan*" (25:1), the Reminder "*ad-Dhikr*" (15:9) and the Revelation sent down "*at-Tanzeel*" (26:192).

Other references to the Qur'an are by such terms as *an-Noor* (the Light), *Hudaa* (Guidance), *Rahmah* (Mercy), *Majeed* (Glorious), *Mubaarak* (Blessed) and *Nadheer* (Warner), among other names.



1.6. The Beginning of Revelation

The revelation of the Qur'an began in *Laylat-ul-Qadr* (the Night of Power) of *Ramadaan* (the twenty-seventh night or one of the odd nights of its third part) after Prophet Muhammad ﷺ had passed the fortieth year of his life, during his seclusion in the cave of *Hiraa'*, on a mountain near Makkah, in the year 610 CE.

The first revelation he received constitutes the first five verses of *Soorat al-'Alaq* (the Clinging Clot):

Read in the Name of your Lord, who created; created man from a clinging clot.

1.5. The Qur'an: the Final Revelation

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was the Last Messenger from Allah to mankind; he brought the final revelation – the Qur'an – from Allah to man. Therefore, the Qur'an is the last of the Holy Scriptures.

Read! And your Lord is the Most Gracious One; He Who has taught by the pen; He has taught man that which he knew not. (96:1-5)

The remainder part of this *soorah*, which consists of 19 verses, was revealed on some other occasion.

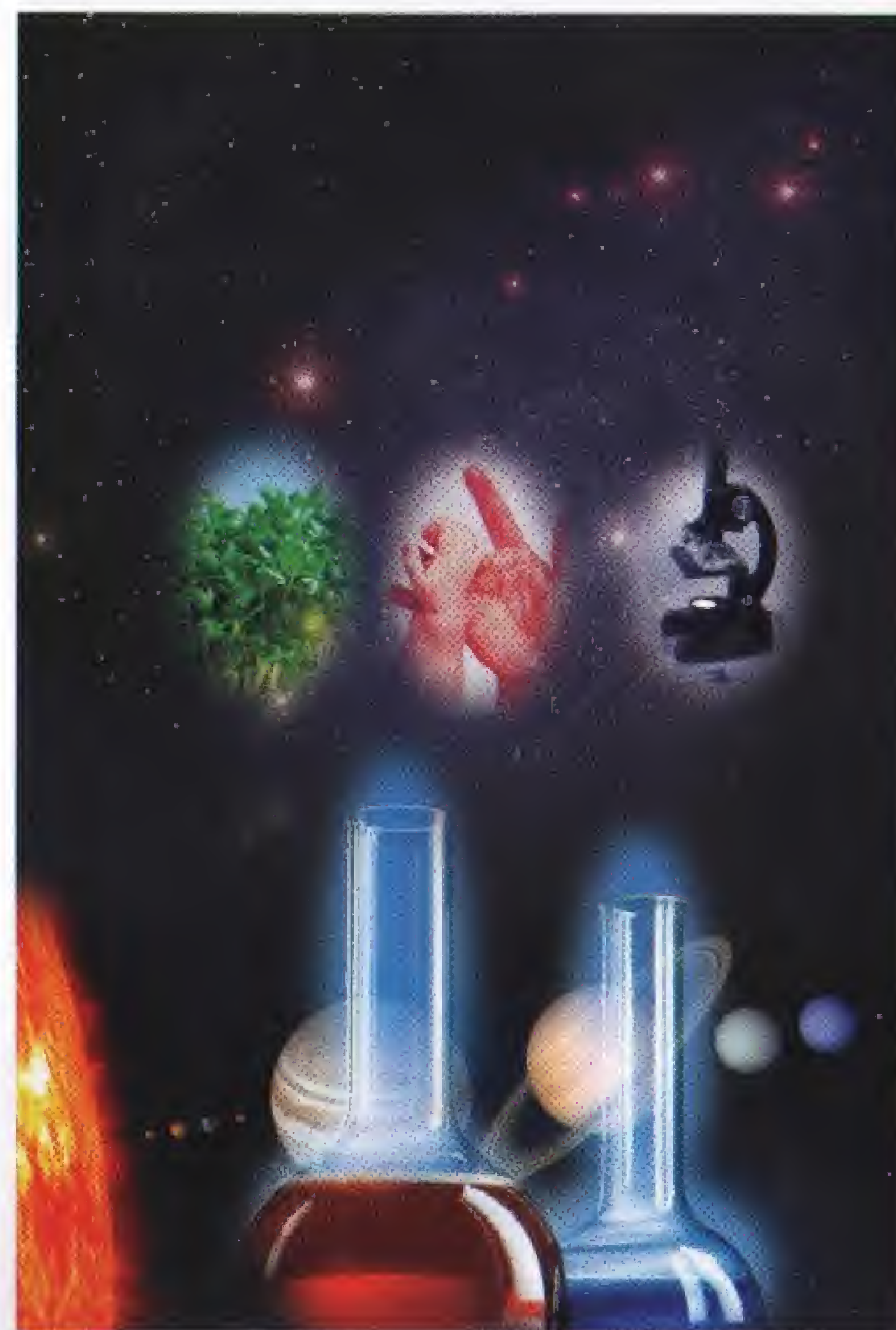
1.7. The Second Revelation

The second portion of the Glorious Qur'an revealed to Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was the beginning of *Soorat Al-Muddath-thir* (74:1-5). The rest of the *soorah* was revealed later. This *soorah* consists of 56 verses.

Thus, the Qur'an is not simply a book that makes people grow morally and spiritually. It is not just about imparting human knowledge of what is right and correct. It also instils in people's hearts and minds the feeling of heedfulness, fear, love and accountability to Allah that will make them do what is proper and correct. The Qur'an, therefore, vividly describes what will happen on the Day of Judgment to both those who are righteous and heedful of Allah and those who are evil.

Thus, once we realize this Qur'anic objective and sincerely strive hard to achieve it through reading and studying the Qur'an, Allah will certainly grant us knowledge and fill our hearts with heedfulness (*taqwaa*). In this way, we will become useful in our society as well as in the world at large. Our conduct and actions will change for the better, and we will call people to the way of Allah – the way of peace in the world.

Certainly, one of the objectives of the Qur'an is to show the believers how to protect themselves from all the forces of evil that are trying to distance them from their Creator. Allah cautions them concerning their own lower self (*an-nafs*, or soul) – an enemy concerning which most people would not be aware were not for the revelation of Allah and His guidance in this regard. Perhaps the clearest example of this class of teachings in the Qur'an deals with the devil, or Satan. The Qur'an vividly describes the ways and means of the devil. One such way is his appearing as a sincere advisor and well-wisher, as was the case in which he approached Adam and Eve although Allah had warned them about him, as He warns the believers about in the Gracious Qur'an. (7: 20-22)



1.15. Scientific Miracles in the Qur'an

In fact, the Qur'an is not a book of science or technology. It is a book of guidance which principally aims at guiding people to the true God — Allah, helps them establish righteousness and create a virtuous society.

The Qur'an is the Word of Allah. Its matchless style and profound wisdom constitute some of its definite proofs. Furthermore, its miraculous attributes further prove that it is a revelation from Allah. One of these attributes is the fact that a number of scientific facts that have been discovered in recent years with the help of modern technology were stated in the Qur'an over 1400 years ago. These facts could not have been known at the time of the Qur'an's

revelation. This conclusively provides further evidence that the Qur'an is the Word of Allah and categorically points to Islam's genuineness. In fact, many Western scientists have embraced Islam once they found out about some of these scientific facts in the Qur'an.



The Prophet ﷺ was not familiar with such scientific facts which were discovered only in recent decades. In fact, he was illiterate, which proves beyond doubt that only God must have revealed them to him. These scientific miracles relate to a number of matters including the following:

- Embryology and human creation
- Sensation of pain in the skin
- Recent scientific discoveries concerning the intestines
- The significance of the sense of hearing as compared with that of sight
- The origin of creation
- The miraculous nature of fingerprints
- The miraculous healing honey provides
- The detrimental effects of carrion, blood and pork
- Health benefits of ablution, prayer and fasting
- The Qur'an, a healing and mercy

Dr. Sharif Kaf al-Ghazal discusses these and many other scientific miracles in his brilliantly written book *Medical Miracles of the Qur'an*, which has been published by the Islamic Foundation, Leicester, UK.

Review

- The Qur'an was revealed in stages. What, do you think, is Allah's wisdom in revealing it in this way?
- The Qur'an had some form of arrangement in the lifetime of the Prophet ﷺ. Explain.
- Why did 'Umar ؓ feel the need to compile a standard written copy?
- There is no English equivalent for the terms 'Sunnah' and 'ayah'. Discuss.
- Discuss, preferably with the help of a diagram, the various divisions in the Qur'an. Also note the wisdom behind these divisions.
- Explain the term 'nadh'm'.
- Discuss in detail the purpose of the Qur'an.
- Mention something about Allah's wisdom in including medical and other scientific miracles in the Qur'an although it is primarily a book of guidance.

For Further Reading



1. Ahmad Von Denffer, *'Uloom al-Qur'aan*, Islamic Foundation, Leicester, UK, 2009.
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